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His Majestie's
GRACIOUS
SPEECH,
Together with the Lord
CHANCELLOR'S,
To both Houses of PARLIAMENT; on
Saturday the 29th day of *December*, 1660.
Being the day of their *Dissolution*.
As also that of the
SPEAKER
of the Honorable House of COMMONS,
at the same time.

LONDON,
Printed by JOHN BILL, Printer to the King's most Excellent Majestie. 1660.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

HIS MAJESTIE'S
Gracious Speech
To both Houſes of
PARLIAMENT,
On Saturday the 29 day of *December* 1660.
Upon the Diſſolution of the *PARLIAMENT.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Will not entertain you with a long diſcourſe; the ſum of all I have to ſay to you, being but to give you Thanks, very hearty Thanks; and I aſſure you I finde it a very difficult work to ſatisfie My Self in My Own expreſſions of thoſe Thanks; Perfunctory thanks, Ordinary thanks for Ordinary civilities are eaſily given; but when the Heart is as full as Mine is, it is a labor to thank you; You have taken great pains to obliege Me, and therefore it cannot be eaſie for me to expreſs the ſence I have of it.

I will enlarge no further to you upon this occaſion, then to tell you, That when God brought Me hither, I brought with me an Extraordinary

Affection and Eſteem for Parliaments. I need not tell you how much it is improved by your carriage towards me. You have out-done all the good and oblieging Acts of your Predeceſſors towards the Crown; and therefore you cannot but believe My Heart is exceedingly enlarged with the acknowledgment.

Many former Parliaments have had particular denominations from what they have done; They have been ſtiled, Learned *and* Unlearned, *and ſometimes have had worſe Epithites; I pray let us all Reſolve that this be for ever called,* The Healing and the Bleſſed Parliament.

As I thank you, though not enough, for what you have done, ſo I have not the leaſt doubt, by the bleſſing of God, but when I ſhall call the next Parliament, which I ſhall do as ſoon as reaſonably you can expect or deſire, I ſhall receive your Thanks for what I have done ſince I parted with you: For I deal truly with you, I ſhall not more propoſe any one Rule to My Self in My Actions, and My Councels, then this, What is a Parliament like to think of this Action, or this Councel? *And it ſhall be want of Underſtanding in Me, if it will not bear that Teſt.*

I ſhall conclude with this, which I cannot ſay too often, nor you too often, where you go, That next to the miraculous bleſſing of God Almighty,

Almighty; and indeed, as an immediate effect of that Bleſsing, I do impute the good Diſpoſition and Security we are all in, to the happy Act of Indempnity and Oblivion; that is the principal Corner-ſtone which ſupports this excellent Building, that creates Kindneſs in Us to each other; and Confidence is Our Joynt and Common Security. You may be ſure, I will not onely obſerve it Religiouſly, and inviolably My Self, but alſo exact the obſervation of it from others: And if any perſon ſhould ever have the boldneſs to attempt to perſwade Me to the contrary, he will finde ſuch an Acceptation from Me, as he would have, who ſhould perſwade Me to burn Magna Charta, *cancel all the old Laws, and to erect a new Government after My Own invention and appetite.*

There are many other particulars which I will not truſt My Own Memory with, but will require the Chancellor to ſay the reſt to you.

(After His Majeſty had done, the Lord Chancellor ſaid as followeth)

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes of the Houſe of Commons;

THere cannot be a greater manifeſtation of an excellent Temper and Harmony of Affections throughout the Nation, then that the King and his two Houſes of Parliament meet with the ſame Affections and Cheerfulneſs, the ſame Alacrity in their Countenance at the Diſſolution, as when they met at the Convention of Parliament: It is an unqueſtionable evidence, that they are exceedingly ſatisfied in what they have done towards each other, that they have very well done all the buſineſs they came about: This is now your caſe, you have ſo well ſatisfied your own Conſciences, that you are ſure you have ſatisfied the King's expectation and His Hope, and the deſires and wiſhes of the Country. It was very juſtly obſerved by you, Mr. *Speaker*, that you have never asked any one thing of the King, which he hath not with all imaginable cheerfulneſs granted; and in truth, His Majeſty doth with great comfort acknowledge, that you have been ſo far from denying Him any thing He hath asked, that He hath ſcarce wiſhed any thing that you have not granted; And it is no wonder, that having ſo fully complyed with your obligations, and having ſo well compoſed the minds

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of the Nation, you are now willing to be relieved from this extraordinary Fatigue you have ſubmitted ſo long to, and to return to the conſideration of your own particular Affairs, which you have ſo long ſacrificed to the Publique; and this reaſonable wiſh and deſire hath brought the King to comply with you, and, which nothing elſe could do, to part with you with an equal cheerfulneſs; and he makes no doubt, but all ſucceeding Parliaments will pay you their Thanks for all you have done, and look upon your Actions and your example with all poſsible Approbation and Reverence.

The King and you have given ſuch earneſt to each other of your mutual Affection, you have been ſo exact and punctual in your proceedings towards each other, that you have made no promiſe, no profeſsion to each other, of the making good and performing of which the world is not witneſs: You declared at the Adjournment in *September* laſt, your Reſolution to ſettle a noble Revenew on the Crown; you have done it with all the Circumſtances of Affection and Prudence. The King promiſed you to eſtabliſh a Council for Trade, a Council for the Forreign Plantations, a Commiſsion for compoſing all difference upon Sales; all this he did before your coming together, and with very good effect; and you

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ſhall hear that the Proceedings in every one of them are more vigorous and effectual after your Diſſolution; His Majeſty then promiſed you, that he would give up all his endeavors to compoſe the unhappy differences in matters of Religion, and to reſtore the languiſhing Church to peace, Unity and Order: *Conſtantine* himſelf hardly ſpent ſo much of his own time in private and publique Conferences to that purpoſe; His Majeſty in private conferred with the Learned Men, and heard all that could be ſaid upon ſeveral Opinions and Intereſts apart, and then in the preſence of both Parties, himſelf moderating in the debates, (and leſs care and diligence and authority would not have done the work) and God hath ſo bleſſed His Labor, and made His Determinations in that Affair ſo generally agreeable, that he hath received thanks from His Houſes of Parliament, that is, from the whole Kingdom: If after all this, His Majeſty doth not reap the full Harveſt he expected from thoſe Condeſcentions; If ſome men, by their writing, and by their preachings endeavor to continue thoſe Breaches, and very raſhly and I think unconſcientiouſly keep up the diſtinctions, and publickly juſtifie and maintain what hath heretofore been done amiſs, and for which the Act of Indempnity was the beſt defence; I ſhall ſay no more, then that I hope

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their want of Modeſty and Obedience will cauſe them to be diſclaimed by all pious and peaceable men, who cannot but be well contented to ſee them reduced by Law, to the obedience they owe to Law? And His Majeſty is confident, that this His beloved City, towards which His heart is ſo gracious, and ſo full of Princely Deſigns to improve their Honor, their Wealth, and their Beauty, will diſcountenance all thoſe ſeditious deſigns, and by returning and fixing themſelves upon their good old Foundations, make themſelves the great example of Piety, of Loyalty, and of hearty Affection to the whole Kingdom.

This diſcourſe puts me in mind to ſay to you, that though the King wonders much more at the many great things you have done, then that you have left any thing undone, yet he could have wiſhed, and would have been glad that your other weighty Affairs had given you time to have publiſhed your opinion and advice in the buſineſs of the Militia, that the People after ſo many diſputes upon that Argument, might have diſcerned that the King, and His two Houſes of Parliament are as much of the ſame mind in that, as in all other things, as no doubt they are. But ſince that could not be done, you may all aſſure your ſelves, That the King will proceed there-

in with all imaginable care and circumſpecti-on, for the eaſe, and quiet, and ſecurity of His People: And as He did before the laſt Receſs by the unanimous advice of His Privy Coun-cil, iſſue out His Commiſsions of Lieute-nancy for the ſetling the Militia in the ſeveral Counties, to prevent any diſorders which many apprehended might ariſe upon the diſ-banding the Army; ſo He will now again recommend it to them to keep themſelves in ſuch a Poſture, as may diſappoint any ſedi-tious deſigns which are now on foot; and there cannot be too much circumſpection and vigilance to fruſtrate thoſe deſigns. You have heard of many ſuſpected and danger-ous perſons which have been lately clapped up, and it was high time to look about: His Majeſty hath ſpent many hours Himſelf in the examination of this buſineſs, and ſome of the Principal Officers, who before they came to His Majeſtie's Preſence, could not be brought to acknowledge any thing, after the King Himſelf had ſpoken to them, confeſſed, That their ſpirits were inſenſibly prevailed up-on, and ſubdued, and that it was not in their power to conceal their guilt from Him. They have confeſſed, That there is a party of the late Diſbanded Officers and Soldiers, and others, full of diſcontent and ſeditious purpoſes, and in reſolution to attempt the

change of the preſent Government; and to erect the Republick; they acknowledge that they did purpoſe to have made their attempt for the reſcue of thoſe Wretches, who were ſo juſtly condemned at *Newgate*, and ſo worthily executed; and that *Ludlow* ſhould then have appeared in the head of them; that they made themſelves ſure at the ſame time, by Parties and Confederacy to have ſurprized the Tower of *London*, and the Caſtle of *Windſor*; but that they found, or at leaſt apprehended, that their deſign was diſcovered; which ſo broke their ſpirits, that they concluded they muſt acquieſce for the preſent, and ſtay till the Army ſhould be disbanded, which they ſaid was generally debauched, that is, Returned to an honeſt and faſt obedience to the King; and that it was evident they were betrayed by thoſe who were moſt entirely truſted by them; and they were in the right: The King had notice of all their deſign, what progreſs it made, and the night they intended to ſurprize the Tower and *Windſor*, and gave notice to the ſeveral Governors; and ſo without any noiſe, that miſchief was by Gods goodneſs prevented: They acknowledge that they have ſince recovered their Courage and Reſolution, and were about this time to make their full attempt; they have been promiſed ſome

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conſiderable Riſing in the Weſt under *Ludlow*, and in the North under others; but this place was the Scene of greateſt hope; they made ſure of a Body here, I think they ſay of Two thouſand five hundred men, with which they reſolved in the firſt place, to ſecure (you know what that ſecurity is) the Perſon of the General, the Duke of *Albemarle*, with whom they have ſo much reaſon to be angry, and at the ſame time to poſſeſs themſelves of *Whitehal*; You know the method uſed in ſuch poſſeſsing, *Kill, and take Poſſeſsion*; and this inſupportable Calamity God hath again déverted from Us; though I muſt tell you, the poor men who ſeem to ſpeak honeſtly, and upon the impulſion of Conſcience, are very far from being confident, that there will not be ſome deſperate Inſurrections and Attempts in ſeveral parts of the Kingdom within a ſhort time, which all poſsible care will be taken to prevent; and in truth this very good City ſo well requites the Kings abundant Grace and Kindneſs to it, That not onely by the unwearied Pains and Diligence of the worthy Lord Major, but by the general temper and conſtitution of the whole City, the diſcontented and ſeditious Party (which can never be totally extirpated out of ſuch a *Metropolis*) is like to receive little encouragement to purſue their deſperate Counſels.

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The King doth not believe that all thoſe perſons who at preſent are apprehended, and in cuſtody, will be found guilty of this Treaſon; It is a vulgar and known Artifice, to corrupt inferior perſons, by perſwading them, That better men are ingaged in the ſame enterpriſe; and the King will make as much haſte as He can to ſet thoſe at Liberty, againſt whom the evidence or ſuſpicion is not too reaſonable; in the mean time, they who are in truth innocent, muſt confeſs that the proceeding towards them, hath been very natural and full of Clemency; and no man will wonder, if His Majeſty be very deſirous that in this conjuncture, and in order to prevent, or ſuppreſs theſe too viſible diſtempers and Machinations, His Militia in all places be in good order and preparation: And you may aſſure your ſelves, That in the forming and conduct of it, He will have ſo great a care of the eaſe and quiet of His People, that if any perſon truſted by him, ſhall through want of skill, or want of temper, ſatisfie his own paſsion or appetite, in grieving or vexing his neighbours, His Majeſty will be ſo ſenſible of it, that if it can be cured no other way, His Truſt ſhall be quickly determined, and He is not at all reſerved in giving thoſe Anim-

adverſions and Reprehenſions when there is occaſion; and His ears will be always open to receive thoſe complaints.

My Lords and Gentlemen, You are now returning to your Countreys to receive the thanks and acknowledgements of your Friends and Neighbours, for the great things you have done, and to make the burthens you have laid upon them, eaſie, by convincing them of the inevitable neceſsity of their ſubmitting to them; You will make them ſee that you have proceeded very far towards the ſeparation, and even divorce of that Neceſsity from them, to which they have been ſo long married, that they are now reſtored to that bleſſed temper of Government, under which their Anceſtors enjoyed ſo many hundred years, that full meaſure of felicity, and the miſery of being deprived of which they have ſo ſenſibly felt, that they are now free from thoſe midnight Alarms, with which they have been terrified, and riſe out of their beds at their own healthy hours, without being ſaluted with the death of a Husband, a Son, and Friend, miſerably killed the night or the day before, and with ſuch circumſtances kill'd, as improved the miſery beyond the loſs it ſelf; this enfranchiſement is worth all

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they pay for it: Your Lordſhips will eaſily recover that eſtimation and reverence that is due to your high Condition, by the exerciſe and practice of that vertue, from whence your Honors firſt ſprang; the example of your Juſtice and Piety will enflame the hearts of the People towards you; and from your practice, they will make a judgment of the King himſelf: They know very well, that you are not only admitted to his Preſence, but to his Converſation, and even in a degree to his Friendſhip, for you are his great Councill; by your Example they will form their own Manners, and by yours they will make ſome gueſs at the King's: Therefore under that obligation, you will cauſe your Piety, your Juſtice, your Affability, and your Charity to ſhine as bright as is poſsible before them. They are too much in love with *England*, too partial to it, who believe it the beſt Countrey in the world; there is better earth, and a better aire, and a better, that is, a warmer Sun in other Countries; but we are no more than juſt, when we ſay that *England* is an encloſure of the beſt People in the world, when they are well Informed and Inſtructed, a People in ſobriety of Conſcience the moſt devoted to God Almighty;

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in the integrity of their affections, the moſt dutiful to the King; In their good Manners and Inclinations, moſt regardful and loving to the Nobility; no Nobility in *Europe* ſo entirely loved by the People; there may be more awe, and fear, and terror of them, but no ſuch love towards them as in *England*. I beſeech your Lordſhips, do not undervalue this love; they have looked upon your Lordſhips, and they will look upon your Lordſhips again, as the greateſt examples and patterns of Duty to the King, as their greateſt Security and Protection from injury and injuſtice, and for their enjoying whatſoever is due to them by the Law, and as the moſt proper Mediators and Interpoſers to the King, if by any failer of Juſtice they ſhould be expoſed to any oppreſsion and violence: And this exerciſe of your Juſtice and Kindneſs towards them, will make them the more abhor and abominate that parity upon which a Commonwealth muſt be founded, becauſe it would extirpate, or ſuppreſs, or deprive them of their beloved Nobility, which are ſuch a ſupport and ſecurity to their full happineſs.

And you Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons, you are now returning to your Country laden with a Truſt not inferior,

weighty, than that you brought from thence; you came up their Deputies to the King, and he returns you now his Deputies to them, his Plenipotentiaries, to inform & assure them, that he thinks himself the happiest, and the greatest Prince of the World, not from the Scituation of His Dominions and the Power of his great Navy, with which he can visit his Neighbors, and keep them from visiting him, or from the noble Revenue you have setled upon him, which he will improve with all good Husbandry, but from being possessed of the Affections and Hearts of such Subjects; that he doth so intirely love them, and depend upon them; that all his Actions and all his Councels, shall tend to no other end, but to make them happy and prosperous: that he thinks his Honour and his Interest Principally to consist in providing for, and advancing the Honor and Interest of the Nation: That you may have the more credit in what you say, He will not take it unkindly, if you publish his defects and Infirmities: You may tell them, that He is so confident in the multitude of His very good and faithful Subjects, that he is very hard to be perswaded that His few ill and unfaithful Subjects can do Him much harm; that He so much depends upon the affection of honest men, and their Zeal for His security, that He is not so follicitous and vigilant for His own safety as he ought to

be, amidſt ſo many Combinations, of which he is ſo well informed, that His Servants, who with grief and anguiſh importune Him not to take ſo little care of his own ſafety, can obtain no other anſwer from Him, then what *Cæſar* heretofore gave to his jealous Friends, *Mori ſe malle quam timeri*, or *timere*; He will die any death, rather then live in fear of His own Subjects, or that they ſhould live in fear of him; You may tell them as a great Infirmity, that a troubled and diſcontented Countenance ſo afflicts him, that he would remove it from them at his own charge, as if he himſelf were in the fault; and when he hath been informed of any leſs kinde, or jealous thing ſaid amongſt you, as your windores are never ſo cloſe ſhut, but that the ſound of your words goes to the ſeveral corners of the Town, His Majeſty hath been heard to ſay no more, but, *What have I done? I wiſh that Gentleman and I were acquainted, that he knew me better.* Oh, Gentlemen, you cannot be your ſelves, nor you cannot make your Friends too zealous, or too jealous for ſuch a Prince's ſafety, or too ſollicitous for ſuch a Prince's ſatisfaction and content, to whom we may very juſtly ſay, as the King of *Tyre* writ to *Solomon*, *Becauſe God hath loved his people, he hath made thee King over them*: Even His defects and infirmities are very neceſſary towards

wards the full measure of our prosperity.

My Lords and Gentlemen, God hath enabled us to invert one Argument, which, I hope, may to a good degree repair the much mischief it hath heretofore done: It hath been urged very unreasonably, yet successfully urged in the worst times, That it was not Faith, but Presumption, to expect that God would restore a Family, with which he seemed to have a controversie, & had humbled so far; That he would ever countenance a Party, that he had so much discountenanced, and almost destroyed. We may now much more reasonably, and therefore I hope as effectually, press the Miracles that God Almighty hath lately wrought for *K*ing and People, as an evidence that he will not again easily forsake them: We may tell those, who are using all their endeavours to imbroil the Nation in new troubles, That it is not probable, that a Nation, against which God seemed these late years to have pronounced his Iudgment, in the very language of the Prophet;

Go ye swift messengers to a Nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from the beginning hitherto, a Nation rooted out and trodden down, whose Land the Rivers have spoiled: ---- The Lord hath mingeld a perverse spirit in the middest thereof.

That

That he ſhould reduce that perverſneſs to the greateſt meekneſs and reſignation, that he ſhould withdraw his Judgement from this Nation, and in a moment reſtore it to all the happineſs it can wiſh, and to no other end, but to expoſe it to the mercy and fury of a few diſcontented perſons, the worſt of the Nation, is not eaſie to be believed.

We may tell thoſe who ſtill contrive the ruine of the Church, the beſt, and the beſt Reformed Church in the Chriſtian World; Reformed by that Authority, and with thoſe Circumſtances as a Reformation ought to be made, that God would not ſo miraculouſly have ſnatched this Church as a brand out of the fire; would not have raiſed it from the grave, after he had ſuffered it to be buried ſo many years, by the boyſtrous hands of Prophane and Sacrilegious perſons, under its own rubbidge, to expoſe it again to the ſame Rapine, Reproach and Impiety: That Church which delights it ſelf in being called Catholick, was never ſo near expiration, never had ſuch a Reſurrection, that ſo ſmall a pittance of Meal and Oyl, ſhould be ſufficient to preſerve and nouriſh the poor Widow and her Family ſo long, is very little more miraculous then

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that ſuch a number of pious, learned, and very aged Biſhops, ſhould ſo many years be preſerved, in ſuch wonderful ſtraights and oppreſſions, untill they ſhould plentifully provide for their own Succeſſion: That after ſuch a deep Deluge of *Sacriledge*, Profaneſs and Impiety had covered, and to common underſtanding ſwallowed it up; that that Church ſhould again appear above the waters, God be again ſerved in that Church, and ſerved as he ought to be, and that there ſhould be ſtill ſome Revenue left to ſupport and encourage thoſe who ſerve him; nay, that many of thoſe who ſeemed to thirſt after that Revenue till they had poſſeſſed it, ſhould conſcientiouſly reſtore what they had taken away, and become good ſons, and willing Tenants to that Church they had ſo lately ſpoyled, may make us all piouſly believe, that God Almighty would not have been at the expence and charge of ſuch a miracle, ſo manifeſted himſelf to us in ſuch a deliverance, but in the behalf of a Church very acceptable to him, and which ſhall continue to the end of the World, and againſt which the Gates of *Hell* ſhall not be able to prevail!

We may tell thoſe deſperate wretches, who yet harbour in their thoughts wicked deſigns againſt the Sacred Perſon of the King, in order to the compaſſing their own imaginations, that God Almighty would not have led Him

through ſo many Wilderneſſes of Afflictions of all kinds, conducted Him through ſo many perils by Sea, and perils by Land; ſnatch'd Him out of the midſt of this Kingdom, when it was not worthy of Him; and when the hands of His Enemies were even upon Him, when they thought themſelves ſo ſure of *Him*, that they would bid ſo cheap, and ſo vile a price for *Him*; *He* would not in that Article have ſo covered *Him* with a Cloud, that *He* travailed even with ſome pleaſure, and great obſervation through the midſt of *His* Enemies; *He* would not ſo wonderfully have new modelled that Army, ſo inſpired their hearts, and the hearts of the whole Nation, with an honeſt, and impatient longing for the return of their dear Soveraign, and in the mean time have ſo exerciſed Him (which had little leſs of Providence in it than the other) with thoſe unnatural, or at leaſt unuſual diſreſpects and reproaches abroad, that He might have a harmleſs and an innocent appetite to His Own Countrey, and return to His Own People, with a full value, and the whole unwaſted Bulk of *His* Affections, without being corrupted, or byaſſed by Extraordinary Forraign Obligations: God Almighty would not have done all this, but for a Servant whom He will alwayes preſerve as the apple of *His* own Eye, and alwayes defend from the moſt ſecret machinations of *His* Enemies. If

If theſe Argumentations, Gentlemen, urged with that vivacity as is moſt natural to your own gratitude and Affections, recover as many (and it would be ſtrange if it ſhould not) as have been corrupted by the other Logick, the hearts of the whole Nation, even to a man, will inſenſibly be ſo devoted to the King, as the only Conſervator and Protector of all that is dear and precious to them, and will be ſo Zealous to pleaſe him, whoſe greateſt pleaſure is to ſee them pleaſed, that when they make choice of Perſons again to ſerve in Parliament, they will not chooſe ſuch, who they wiſh ſhould oppoſe the King, but therefore chooſe them, becauſe they have, and becauſe they are like to ſerve the King with their whole hearts; and ſince he deſires what is beſt for his People, to gratifie him in all he deſires: This bleſſed harmony would raiſe us to the higheſt Pinacle of honour and happineſſe in this world, a pinacle without a point, upon which King and People may ſecurely reſt and repoſe themſelves againſt all the guſts, and ſtormes and tempeſts which all the malice of this world can raiſe againſt us, and I am ſure you will all contend to be at the top of this Pinacle.

I have no more to add, but the words of cuſtome, *That the King declares this preſent Parliament to be diſſolved; and this preſent Parliament is diſſolved.*

THE

THE SPEECH

WHICH THE

SPEAKER of the House of Commons made unto the KING, on *Saturday December* 29. 1660, being the Day of their Dissolution.

Most Gracious and Dread Soveraign,

THe Knights, Citizens and Burgesses now assembled in Parliament, being the Representative Body of Your Commons of *England*, are as Conduit Pipes or Quils to convey the Streams of Your Peoples dutiful Affections and humble Desires into Your Royal Presence; and that being done, they need no other Speaker but Your Self, for they know Your Skil, and they have had experience of Your Will. And yet, Royal Sir, Though they have no cause to complain, they cannot but take notice of Your Partiality, for when any thing in point of Right, or but Conveniency, hath fallen out to be, as we use to say, a measuring Cast, a disputable Case between Your Self and

Your People, without any regard or reſpect had unto Your own Right, or the Advantage that might accrue to Your Self by aſſerting the ſame, if the good of Your People hath come in competition with it, You have alwayes caſt it againſt Your Self, and given it in on your Peoples ſide.

Royal Sir, Thus to undo Your Self to do Your people good, is not to do as You would be done unto; and what can we do leſſe, then by way of a grateful retribution, cheerfully to pay Your Majeſty the juſt Tribute of our dutiful Obedience unto all Your Royal Commands, and upon all occaſions readily to ſacrifice, *Se & ſua*, all that we have, or enjoy, Lives and Fortunes, in the Service of ſuch an incomparable Soveraign.

But, *Royal Sir*, It becomes not me to fill Your Majeſties ears with air; *Loquere, ut te videam*, is the only Rhetorick the People ought to uſe to ſuch a King of kindneſs, and a Prince ſo full of good Works; and therefore, as I am commanded, I muſt humbly aſſure Your Majeſty, that the many healing expedients propounded by Your Self in your ſeveral moſt gracious Declarations, have been the ſubject matter upon which Your Commons have wrought all this Parliament: And in the firſt place, they took into Conſideration, the great and growing charges, which then lay upon your people, for the pay of Your Army and Navy; and they conceived it neceſſary, to begin with that part thereof, next at hand, wherein Your People would receive the moſt eaſe, and the greateſt ſecurity and ſatisfaction, which was the disbanding Your Majeſties Forces by Land, and the paying off five and Twenty of Your Ships then in the Harbour and of no uſe: And this led them to

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the Conſideration of ſuch wayes and means, as were to be uſed to raiſe Moneys for that purpoſe: And that for Poll-money being propounded and paſſed, ſome were of opinion, that, that alone would have over-done the Work: Others having had experience of a former Bill of the ſame nature, and upon the like occaſion, fearing it might not anſwer expectation; and being unwilling to be deceived the ſecond time, eſpecially in ſuch a buſineſs as this, wherein a miſtake was like to prove ſo penal, moved for a further Supply, which after ſome Debate was agreed upon, Of a Two months Aſſeſſment at Seventy thouſand Pounds a month, and both have not yet fully done the work for which they were deſigned, but with the help of two other Bills here in my hand; the one intituled, *An Act for the leavying of the Arrears of the Twelve months Aſſeſſment, commencing the four and twentieth of June* 1659, *and the Six months Aſſeſſment commencing the Five and twentieth of December* 1659. And the other intituled, *An Act for the further Supplying and Explaining certain Defects in an Act for the ſpeedy Proviſion of Money for Diſbanding and Paying off the Forces of this Kingdome both by Land and Sea*: They hope, this Account will be fully cleared off at laſt.

Sir, Your Commons have likewiſe taken into their Conſiderations, the Charge of Your Summer-Fleet, which beſides that part thereof Your Majeſty is pleaſed to take upon Your Self, for Your ordinary Guard of the Seas, will amount unto a very great ſum. And as 'tis a great Debt, ſo it is a growing Debt, in a few Moneths it doubles. There is a ſaying, *Qui cito dat, bis dat*; I am ſure 'tis moſt true in this caſe, *Qui cito ſolvit, bis ſolvit*; To pay this Debt readily, is the way to pay it but once; and to take time to pay it, is the ſure way to pay it twice: And therefore Your Commons laying

ing aſide the ſad thoughts of their long ſufferings, and thoſe miſerable Devaſtations and Preſſures they have lain under for many years laſt paſt; and looking upon the neceſſity of Affairs, which call importunately, and muſt be anſwered effectually, have paſſed another Bill here in my hand, intituled, *An Act for Six Moneths Aſſeſſment, at Seventy Thouſand pounds* per Menſem, to begin the Firſt of *January*, and to be paid in, the one Moyety thereof before the Firſt of *February*; and the other Moyety, being the remaining part, by the Firſt of *April* next enſuing; which is to be applyed wholly to the paying off the Arrears of Your Majeſties Navy and Army.

I have three other Bills in my hand, which have relation to Your Majeſties Revenue, and are branches thereof; the One intituled, *An Act for the better Ordering the ſelling of Wines by Retail, and for preventing abuſes in the Mingling, Corrupting, and Vitiating of Wines, and for ſetling and limiting the Prizes of the ſame*: And this Bill is tendered unto Your Majeſty, for preventing all future diſputes touching the Legality thereof: For we know it is Your Majeſties deſire, that nothing might be done, by any of Your Officers or Miniſters that Act under You, *Sine figura Juſtitiæ, & warranto Legis*. An other is intituled, *An Act for erecting and eſtabliſhing a Poſt-Office*; And this being likewiſe Legally ſetled, will be of very great uſe to all Your Majeſties People, and eſpecially Your Merchants, for holding Intelligence with their Correſpondens, Factors and Agents in Foreign parts; *Literæ ſunt indices animi*; and without the ſafe and ſpeedy diſpatch and conveyance of their Letters, they will never be able to time their buſineſs, nor carry on their Trades to an equal advantage with the Merchants of other Countries. The other Bill provides for the increaſing Your Majeſties ordinary and conſtant Revenue by the

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grant of an Impoſt to be taken upon *Ale*, *Beer*, and other Beveredges therein particularly mentioned and expreſſed; To hold to your Majeſty for life, which *God* long continue: and as it is the deſire of your Commons, that your Majeſty might never be neceſſitated to reſort to any extraordinary or unparliamentary wayes and means, for the rayſing of money upon your People; So they likewiſe acknowledg it to be their duties, to ſupport and uphold, to the utmoſt of their Powers, the Honour and Grandure of your Majeſties Royal State and Dignity.

And for a further evidence of your Commons dutifull affections to your Majeſties moſt dear and Royal Perſon, they have paſſed another Bill, for the rayſing of ſeventy thouſand Pounds for your *Majeſties* further ſupply; All which Bills I am commanded humbly to preſent your *Majeſty* withall, and to pray your gracious acceptance thereof, and your Royal aſſent thereunto.

There are other Bills likewiſe of Publick concernment which have paſſed both Houſes, and do now attend upon your *Majeſty*, waiting for your Royal aſſent. The one is Intituled, *An Act for the Attainder of ſeveral Perſons, guilty of the horrid Murther of his late ſacred Majeſty*, your Royal Father of ever bleſſed Memory. There is another Bill Intituled, *An Act for Confirmation of Leaſes and Grants from Colledges and Hoſpitals*. This will tend much to the quieting of many mens Eſtates, that in the late unhappy times were enforced to renew, and change their Eſtates much for the worſe, were it not for the favour your *Majeſty* intends them in this Bill.

There is another Bill to prohibit the Exportation of Wool, Wooll-fells, Fullers Earth or any other ſcouring Earths, Woollen *Manufactures*, beſides the Duties they pay your *Majeſty* for your Cuſtoms

here at home, have great impoſitions laid upon them in forraign parts where they are vented: In the Low-Countries ſixteen or ſeventeen *per cent.* and in *Portugal* Twenty *per cent* at the leaſt. But thoſe, who for their own private baſe filthy lucre ſake, having no regard or reſpect unto the publick good, that ſteal over the Materials of which thoſe Manufactures are made, pay not one penny either here or there, and by that means ſtrangers do make thoſe Manufactures of our wool upon ſuch eaſie termes, that they can afford and do under-ſel your Merchants, which is the occaſion of a double loſs: Firſt, to your Majeſty in your Cuſtoms, and in the next Place to your people, who are thereby diſheartened and diſcouraged, and in a ſhort time, if not prevented, will be utterly beaten out of that Ancient native Staple trade, upon which many thouſands of Families do wholly depend for all their livelihood and ſubſiſtence.

There is another Bill intituled, an Act for prohibiting the planting, ſetting or ſowing of Tobacco in *England* and *Ireland*. This Climate is ſo cold that it never comes to any maturity or perfection: for we find by experience, though it be never ſo well healed, made up with the greateſt art and skil that poſſible can be, yet it is impoſſible, after it is made up into the Roll, to keep it and preſerve it from putrifying above three or four moneths at the moſt; and therefore Phyſitians, even thoſe that love it beſt, and uſe it moſt, conclude generally, that it is unwholſome for mens bodies: Beſides many other great damages and inconveniencies will follow upon it, if it ſhould be permitted. The abatement of your Majeſties Cuſtome, The deſtruction of your Plantations abroad, The diſcouraging of Navigation, And ſo conſequently the decay of Shipping, which are the Walls and Bulwarks of your Majeſties Kingdom.

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There is another Bill Intituled, an Act for the taking away the Court of Wards and Liveries, together with tenures *in Capite*, Knight-*Service*, tenures and Purveyances. This Bill *Ex re nata* may properly be called a Bill of Exchange: for, as care is therein taken for the eaſe of Your people; So the ſupply of that part of your Majeſties Revenue, which formerly came into your Treaſury by your tenures, and for your Purveyances, is thereby likewiſe fully provided for by the grant of another impoſition to be taken upon Ale, Beer, and other Liquors, To hold to your Majeſtie, your *Heires* and Succeſſors for ever: And yet they ſhould not look upon the conſiderations mentioned in this bill, as a full compenſation and recompence for your Majeſties parting with two ſuch *Royal Prerogatives* and ancient flowers of your Crown, if more were not imply ed then is expreſſed. For, *Royal Sir*, Your Tenures *in Capite* are not only turned into a Tenure in Soccage (though that alone will for ever give your Majeſtie a juſt Right and title to the labour of our Ploughs, and the ſweat of our browes) But they are likewiſe turned into a Tenure *in Corde*: what your Majeſtie had before in your Court of Wards, you will be ſure to find it hereafter in the Exchequer of your peoples hearts The King of *Spaines* Mines will ſooner deceive him, then this Revenue will fail you: for his Mines have bottomes, but the deeper your Majeſtie ſinkes your ſelf into the hearts and affections of your people, the greater you will find your Wealth to be, and the more invincible your Strength.

Royal Sir, We have nothing more to offer or to Ask, but muſt conclude all our work this Parliament with an humble and thankful acknowledgement of Gods infinite Goodneſs and mercie in Reſtoring your Majeſtie to your Royal and Imperial Crown,

Throne and Dignitie; And for making you the Restorer of that, which is dearer unto us then our lives, Our Religion; in which through Gods blessing and Gracious assistance we are resolved to live and dye. As likewise for restoring us to our *Magna Charta* Liberties, having taken the charge and care of them into your own heart, which is our greatest security, and more then a thousand confirmations.

Royal Sir, You have denied us nothing we have asked this Parliament; indeed you have out-done your Parliament by doing much more for us, then we could agree amongst our selves to ask, and therefore must needs be a happy Parliament: This is a healing Parliament, A Reconciling Peace-making Parliament, A blessed Parliament, A Parliament, *Propter excellentiam*, that may truly be called *Parliamentissimum Parliamentum*, no man can say, that hath made the most curious search into Books or Records, that there ever was such a Parliament as this; And its our unspeakable joy and comfort that no man can say, so long as your Majestie lives, but we may have such another; for you have set your Royal Heart upon it, to do your people good.

And as we have nothing more to say, so we have nothing more to do, but that which will be a doing as long as we have a being; The pouring out our soules unto Almighty God for your Majesties Long, Long, Long and most happy, blessed, Glorious and Prosperous Reign over us.

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